

# What's the BiG idea?

Competition  
for budding  
entrepreneurs

Duncan Bannatyne  
addresses the Big launch  
at the St Pauls Hotel



Entrepreneur Duncan  
Bannatyne

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One of the UK's leading entrepreneurs, formidable Dragon's Den star Duncan Bannatyne, was in Sheffield last week for the launch of a major new £18m business support programme.

BiG - Make it Your Business is a set of activities to encourage people living in some of Sheffield's most disadvantaged communities to set up successful businesses, which in turn will increase employment opportunities and boost economic growth across the whole city.

At an event for 450 of the city's business community, the outspoken star of the hit BBC2

By John Highfield

show for budding entrepreneurs officially launched the programme and shared some inspirational hints on the key to his own success.

BiG will be delivered by a number of partner agencies. It will provide short, medium and long-term rewards for the city, removing barriers to setting up and running a successful business and helping future generations see entrepreneurship as a career choice.

BiG (which is funded through the Government's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative) will also stimulate and promote enterprise, support sustainable growth and increase the success rate of locally-owned businesses within Sheffield.

David Grey, Group Managing Director of OSL Group Holdings Ltd, and Chair of the city's Local Economy Board said: "By developing a culture where enterprise and entrepreneurship become an obvious choice for Sheffield's next generation of entrepreneurs, the city will be able to look towards a more sustainable and positive future."

Councillor Tim Rippon, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Culture and Planning said: "Enterprise and entrepreneurship are relatively new concepts for a city built on traditional manufacturing industries.

"However, Sheffield is on the threshold of a new era, full of anticipation and enthusiasm and it has become a place where

budding entrepreneurs can make their mark.

"Sheffield is a dynamic city. In making the transformation from older industries to new, I can see a confidence in the city that wasn't there ten or 15 years ago. I

"It's time for a new entrepreneurial spirit in the city.

"BiG is precisely the initiative the city needs to ensure this spirit is able to flourish and develop."

A competition - the BiG idea - was also revealed which is being backed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, Barber Harrison & Platt, The Star and Ant Marketing.

With up to £100,000 of private capital available, budding entrepreneurs who need finance for a new idea or business venture can find out more at [www.thebigwebsite.org.uk](http://www.thebigwebsite.org.uk)

## Good planning

By Richard  
Wilson

In association with



Richard Wilson, of Scott Wilson, looks at the impact of the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan

It is 15 years since the 1992 UN Convention on Biodiversity was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and just over ten years since the UK government adopted its Biodiversity Action Plan that set about identifying goals and objectives for conserving the nation's biological heritage. Within three years, the government through its nature conservation agencies, formalised a list of species and habitats (the 'Priority List') that it considered needed the greatest conservation effort. In June 2007, an updated list was published and submitted to the devolved government agencies for consideration to be formally adopted on to the new UK's priority list. Since the original list, the number of priority species has risen from 577 to 1,149 and with regards to habitats; the number has risen from 45 to 65.

Of the additional 20 new priority habitats that have been proposed, one in particular stands out - open mosaic habitats on previously developed land - i.e. brownfield sites. The potential for these former industrial sites to support a wide range of biodiversity is well known. One such example is the Thames Gateway in London, which has recently been declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); a designation assigned to land with a nature conservation value at a national level, that in this instance was for the site's invertebrate interest including two species of nationally scarce bumblebees.

With the UK government's commitment to construction on brownfield (as opposed to the green belt), the potential for development and nature conservation to conflict has potentially increased. Furthermore, recent legislation such as the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 and Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation published in 2005 places a statutory obligation on local planning authorities and other statutory undertakers to protect biodiversity and not just protected species (such as bats...and of course great crested newts). For the first time, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Priority List receives statutory protection; not just policy protection.

It is necessary that any risks to projects associated with ecology are identified quickly, accurately and cost effectively. Scott Wilson regularly delivers effective ecological risk management to a range of organisations and often undertakes appraisals on behalf of developers and local authorities. With the new Priority List and increasing demand for housing development, ecological issues associated with such proposals will increasingly come to the fore. Scott Wilson prides itself on being able to provide a bespoke and proportionate service tailored to the specific needs of our clients. Information on the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan including the updated species list can be found by logging on to [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk). For further information on how Scott Wilson can help, contact Richard Wilson on 0113 204 5000 or visit [www.scottwilson.com](http://www.scottwilson.com).

## THE STRESS BUSTER With Kathryn M. Borg

Kathryn M. Borg is a member of The Guild of Health Writers, Stress Manager, Sports therapist, psychologist and lifestyle consultant. Call her on 07886 420 953

THERE are various factors able to trigger stress in our bodies; the top ten of stressors include death of a spouse, retirement and, of course, issues in the workplace. Therefore, the workplace is somewhere we need to reduce stress considering we spend a good part of our life at work. There is no doubt that companies are looking at controlling stress in more subtle ways. One study found that when the air was scented with jasmine, errors by keyboard operators dropped by 33%. Jasmine is known to soothe and helps to eliminate aggressiveness in the workplace. Infusions of lavender, orange and rose have also been shown to make

people work more efficiently and reduce their stress levels. Another study subjected air traffic controllers to peppermint oil and found it reduced fatigue and increased mental alertness when carrying out difficult tasks. Companies in Tokyo have begun acting on such research by pumping fragrances through their office air-conditioning systems. However this office environment is not confined to the East. A survey carried out by a recruitment specialist found that 40% of UK employers supported the idea of scenting the workplace. It seems that many offices in London are following this trend. However, warnings by herbalists

suggest that employers should take advice from practitioners before pumping essential oils through the office as the wrong oils could cause problems for some employees, although there doesn't seem to have been any adverse effects in the companies who have followed this innovative idea. Some employers have called in Feng Shui experts to introduce harmony and energies conducive to a happy and prosperous workplace. In the long term work stress cannot be ignored and employers have to accept the problematic issues arising from stressed employees. As companies slim down employees have to get used to new equipment,

methods of working and taking on extra work loads. This can be especially difficult for older people. Unfortunately absenteeism is rising as a direct result of work stress. I hope to offer some solutions over the weeks which can be utilised to make the workplace a more stress free environment for everyone. Some of the solutions offered to help combat stress in a corporate environment are acupuncture massage to ease away the tensions in the body and the mind, lifestyle changes and counselling. We will be looking at these, and more, in future issues.

